

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Guidelines Proposed for Identifying Scenic Vistas on Refuges. The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed guidelines to identify scenic vistas on wilderness areas within the National Wildlife Refuge System that merit special air quality protection under the Clean Air Act.

Twenty-one wilderness areas on National Wildlife Refuges are classified as mandatory "Class I" areas, the highest level of protection afforded by the Clean Air Act. Under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations adopted in December 1980, the Service must identify vistas of specific landmarks or panoramas that can be seen from these areas and whose visibility is important to the objectives for which the area was established or to visitor enjoyment.

The guidelines proposed by the Service for identifying such vistas are identical to those recently proposed by the National Park Service and take into account such factors as whether a vista is mentioned in relevant legislation; whether it is well known or attracts visitors from distant areas; whether it has cultural, historic, or scientific importance; and whether developed observation points are present.

The proposed guidelines were published in the January 27, 1981, Federal Register. Public comments are invited and should be sent to the Director (RF), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, by February 26, 1981.

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